

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00818 111336Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
-----111338Z 007800 /46

O R 111320Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0521  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T AMMAN 0818

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, JO, US, SA  
SUBJECT: HAWK PAYMENT PROBLEM

REF: (A) STATE 028200, (B) AMMAN 0174 (NOTAL), (C) AMMAN 0672

1. WITH REGARD TO QUESTION PARA 3 REFTEL (A), WE BELIEVE IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT FUNDS ARE ALLOCATED RATHER THAN "SPENT", BUT CANNOT BE SURE. WE HAVE ONE RELIABLE REPORT FROM SOURCE THAT ORIGINALLY TOLD US ABOUT FUNDS (REFTEL B), THAT MONEY IS STILL NOT EXPENDED. HOWEVER SINCE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO JORDAN ARE GENERALLY NOT SO CAREFULLY EARMARKED, THE REAL QUESTION IS PERHAPS WHETHER JORDAN CAN SPARE \$140 MILLION. THE ANSWER HERE, GIVEN 1977 BUDGET DEFICIT, IS PROBABLY NOT SO CLEAR CUT, GIVEN THE DELIBERATE GOJ DECISION TO AVOID ANY POLITICAL PROBLEMS AT HOME BY BELT TIGHTENING, AND TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON POTENTIAL ARAB DONORS BY GOING FOR AN EXPANSIONARY RATHER THAN AN AUSTERITY BUDGET.

2. AS YOU KNOW, THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN UNBUDGETED MILITARY EXPENDITURES IN WEAPONS ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION AREA. HOWEVER WE DO NOT BELIEVE JORDANIANS  
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COULD HAVE "SPENT" ANYTHING LIKE \$140 MILLION WITHOUT OUR BECOMING AWARE OF IT, IN SPITE OF WHAT ARE ADMITTEDLY FLEXIBLE AND RATHER IMPRECISE BUDGETARY ARRANGEMENTS. IN THE MIAN, WE CONCLUDE THAT THE \$140 MILLION IS EARMARKED IN LARGE PART FOR 1977 DEFICITS AND THAT PRIME MINISTER MAY ALSO HAVE SOME 1976 CARRY OVERS IN MIND WHICH IS WHY HE SPOKE OF

1976. LATTER ASSERTION ALSO HAS ADVANTAGE ON HIS PART OF REINFORCING NOTION MONEY IS NO LONGER AROUND.

3. QUITE POSSIBLE QUEEN'S DEATH AND ROYAL COURT 40 DAY MOURNING PERIOD WILL SLOW UP TIMETABLE FOR KING'S VISIT TO RIYADH TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER.  
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEBT REPAYMENTS, MISSILES  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977AMMAN00818  
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**TAGS:** MASS, PFOR, JO, US, SA  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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